व्यय में कमी मुख्यतः कर्मिकों की भर्ती में लगे समय और राजस्थान सरकार से भूमि-आवंटन में विलंब होने से हुई जिससे परिणामस्वरूप संस्थान के भवन का निर्माण रुक गया। संस्थान के अनुसंधान सलाहकार दल ने कार्य करना शुरू कर दिया है और परियोजनाओं का कार्यान्वयन 1990–91 से किया जा रहा है। संसाधनों की कमी के कारण किसी भी अनुसंधान परियोजना का कार्य अवरुद्ध नहीं हुआ है।

Depletion of Forest Wealth

503. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to check the fast depleting forest wealth in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Following steps have been taken by Government to check the fast depleting forest wealth in India:

(i) Supply of fuelwood and fodder is being increased through social/farm-forestry.

(ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been made more stringent through its amendment in 1988.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to associate village Communities, Voluntary Agencies and other Non-Government Organisations in regeneration and protection of degraded forests.

(iv) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to consider banning tree fellings in the hills above 1000 metres altitude, at least for some years.

(v) Forest Protection measures are being intensified, including strengthening of infrastructure facilities, to curb biotic interference in the forests.

Prevention of Aravalli Hills from pollution

504. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an action plan to protect the Aravalli Hill in Rajasthan from pollution;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a total ban on the setting up of new industrial plants, mining, quarrying or construction activity near the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan has been imposed; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to save the Aravalli hills from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is no separate Action Plan to protect the Aravalli Hills from pollution.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to regulate development activities in selected parts of the Aravalli.

Forestry in North-Eastern States

505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest area in a number of North-Eastern States has been drastically shrinking;

(b) if so, what is the percentage by which the forest areas in those States shrank during the last one decade;